

REMARKS

Claims 5-12, 16-18 and 24-26 are in the application, with Claims 5, 12 and 16 having been amended, with Claims 2-4 and 23 having been cancelled, and with Claims 24-26 having been added¹. Claims 5, 12 and 16 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 5-12 and 16-18 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,722,159 (“Stratas”).

Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form and further amended to recite the new limitation that “the placing of the clip into juxtaposition with the heat spreader includes using the chuck to move legs of the clip towards each other from a splayed position to a substantially vertical position”. Support for this amendment is found at page 6, lines 8-13 of the specification (compare FIG.7 with FIG. 8, regarding position of legs 304 of clip 300).

Applicants note that the Stratas reference does not disclose any such manipulation of the clamp 12 by vacuum nozzle 120. It does not appear either that the clamp 12 is flexible in any way nor that the vacuum nozzle 120 has any moving parts. In any event, nothing in the reference shows clamp 12 with legs in a splayed position, nor such legs being moved from a splayed position to a substantially vertical position.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The other independent claims, which are claims 12 and 16, have been amended in similar fashion to claim 5 and are submitted as patentable on the same basis as claim 5. The remaining claims, all being dependent, are submitted as patentable on the same basis as the independent claims.

¹ It is noted that claims 24-26 are the same as former claims 2-4, except dependent on claim 5 rather than former claim 1.

C O N C L U S I O N

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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